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O 050934Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7424
INFO RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 1602
RUEHBG/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1609
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1581
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 1578
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 1533
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1535
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1525
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1406
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1352
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC
RHMFIISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
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RHMFIISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 1567
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1603
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1138
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0925
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 8650

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DUSHANBE 000836

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STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EUR/ACE, DRL
NSC FOR MERKEL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/5/2016

TAGS: PREL PGOV PINR EAID KDEM TI

SUBJECT: TAJIKISTAN: NDI IN WASHINGTON WANTS SHOWDOWN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT RAHMONOV

REF: A) DUSHANBE 0817 B) DUSHANBE 0804 C) DUSHANBE 0781

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard E. Hoagland, Ambassador, EXEC, Embassy Dushanbe.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (U) National Democratic Institute (NDI) President Ken Wallach and the Ambassador spoke by telephone May 5. Wallach thanked the Ambassador and Embassy Dushanbe for continuous support and advocacy for NDI.

¶2. (C) Wallach said he had spoken by telephone with Nurul Rakimbekov, NDI's former Acting Director in Dushanbe, who had arrived safely back in his native Kazakhstan after having been detained for several days and then deported by Tajikistan's Ministry of Security. Wallach said Rakimbekov maintained no entrapment had occurred, "because nothing had happened." The entire line of questioning during his several days of detention had focused solely on NDI's activities in Tajikistan, according to Rakimbekov. When the interrogators brought in the teenaged girl to confront him, whom he had allegedly paid for a tryst, Rakimbekov told Wallach he'd never seen her before in his life.

(COMMENT: If the interrogators brought in the alleged "victim," it would seem that the line of questioning was not solely limited to NDI's program activities. END COMMENT.)

¶3. (C) The Ambassador responded he remained totally agnostic about the charge because he did not know the facts. He suggested there is evidence, in other channels, that MOS uses under-aged prostitutes in sting operations. Further, it is understandable human nature not to be fully forthcoming if one

is caught in an embarrassing or compromising situation. Wallach said he took the point.

¶4. (C) The Ambassador averred he would be loath to see NDI closed in Tajikistan. He said he was pleased NDI in Washington was considering sending an AmCit staffer or two to maintain the office in the interim, because he would hate to see a red "closed" sign nailed to the door. Wallach concurred. But he added NDI would prefer the Government of Tajikistan simply close down NDI, if that's what it wants, instead of "playing these medieval games." The Ambassador sympathized, but pointed out governments in the region, Uzbekistan's excepted, seem to prefer harassment rather than decisive action so that they don't have to take direct responsibility for their decisions.

¶5. (C) Wallach proposed that either he or NDI Board Member former U.S. Congressman Sam Gejdenson travel to Dushanbe in late May or early June to meet with President Rahmonov to learn if he will guarantee NDI's registration and program activities, or if he wants it closed. NDI staffer Laura Jewett would arrive a few days earlier for due diligence supervision in the NDI office in Dushanbe. Until then, the NDI office will remain open, but will not conduct any program activities. NDI Washington will remain in regular contact with the local staff, and pay salaries and office rent via Western Union transfers.

¶6. (C) Wallach requested that SCA Assistant Secretary Boucher raise the on-going harassment of NDI when he meets with President Rahmonov and Foreign Minister Nazarov on May 8. Wallach said he would look to the response as an indication of how willing Rahmonov would be to make sure NDI can become registered and to guarantee the safety of the NDI staff. The Ambassador responded he would make sure A/S Boucher is fully briefed before his meetings. USAID Dushanbe and Embassy PolOff

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will also maintain regular contact with NDI's local staff.
HOAGLAND